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Editorial

A REMARKABLE GIFT TO CLASSICAL SCHOLARSHIP

A notable piece of good fortune which has befallen the American School of Classical Studies at Athens is cause for the heartiest congratulations among all teachers of Greek, Latin and allied subjects throughout the country. At the annual meeting of the School's Managing Committee, held on May 13, its Chairman, Professor Edward Capps, made formal announcement that His Excellency Mr. Ioannes Gennadius, dean of the diplomatic service of Greece and for forty years the Greek Minister at the court of St. James, has presented his magnificent library, now in his residence in London, to the American School at Athens, on condition that it shall be properly housed, cared for and made accessible to the scholars of the world who resort to Athens for study. Mr. Gennadius is for the moment in Washington, on a special mission from his country; having long cherished the desire to establish his library, the result of two generations of scholarly collecting, in Athens, and at the same time to strengthen the ties which bind Greece to America, he selected the American School to be the repository and custodian of it—a happy inspiration from every point of view, and, we are convinced, a well-deserved compliment to our Athenian School.

For a full description of the Gennadius Library, together with the correspondence which passed between Mr. Gennadius and Professor Mitchell Carroll, Secretary of the Washington Archaeological Society, Professor Capps, and Justice Loring, President of the Trustees of the School, readers of the JOURNAL are referred to the May number of *Art and Archaeology*.

The Library consists of between 45,000 and 50,000 volumes, all relating to Greece, ancient, Byzantine, and modern—its history, geography, language, literature, art, archaeology, Early Christianity, etc. It comprises a superb set of the first editions of the Greek classics; all the first and rarest editions of the Greek Scriptures, of the Greek Fathers, and of the Greek Liturgies; a full collection of works on travel in Greece and the Levant; some 500 historic and artistic bindings of the XVI, XVII, and XVIII centuries; a number of manuscripts; and innumerable rare or unique single items. But its chief value is in its completeness as a collection—"uniquely comprehensive within its field" says Mr. Herbert Putnam, the Librarian of Congress, who has examined the catalogue and appraised the library. It would be safe to estimate the value of the collection in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million dollars.

During the forty years of its existence the American School at Athens has accumulated, through modest buying and through gifts, a working library of some 10,000 volumes. Now at a single stroke it comes into the possession of what is probably the richest and completest collection in the world within its field, which is precisely the field which the School was established to cover, and of a value approaching that of the present total property and endowment of the School. It is an amazing piece of good fortune, and an act of unexampled generosity on the part of the distinguished Hellene who made the gift. Through this gift the School at once enters upon a period of increased usefulness to classical studies.

That Mr. Gennadius has selected precisely the American School at Athens, rather than one of the other learned foundations which have long been established there, recalls sharply to our attention a fact which we are too much inclined to forget—the splendid work which the School, since it was founded in 1881, has with quiet efficiency been carrying on. Established by a group of American colleges and universities, and maintained to this day by some thirty representative institutions which foster liberal studies, it has acquired a high standing among the instrumentalities for the liberalizing of studies which naturally center

in Athens. A steady stream of American scholars has been going thither for over forty years—young scholars to finish their training and the older to gain the inspiration which life in daily association with the land and monuments of Hellas alone can give. Pupils of the School now occupy commanding positions in every part of the land, and their leadership is recognized amongst us. Aspiring young men and women who are looking forward to careers in the several fields of classical studies will be wise if they include in their plans at least a year in Athens, especially now that the privileges of residence there are immeasurably enhanced.

The JOURNAL extends its congratulations to the School, and on behalf of the Classical Association thanks Mr. Gennadius for his magnificent gift to classical scholarship. And we join in the hope that American philanthropy will speedily provide the new building to house the Gennadius collections.

OUR ADVERTISING PAGES

The inclusion of advertising in the JOURNAL, in harmony with the decision reached at the annual meeting in St. Louis a year ago, was confessedly an experiment. To us, and we trust to our readers, the innovation seems to have proved a distinct success. Not only has it added a respectable sum to our resources, but it has become a useful *vade mecum* toward materials and services of help in our teaching and scholarly work. Apparently it has also proved satisfactory to our advertisers, who have repeatedly expressed themselves to that effect in letters to the advertising manager. To this official, Mr. J. S. Grassfield, of the University of Iowa, the JOURNAL is deeply indebted for his industry and enthusiasm in building up our advertising clientèle. Fortunately his services will probably be available for the coming year.

Perhaps the suggestion may not be irrelevant that members of the Classical Association can aid materially in this matter. In the first place, when corresponding with advertisers they can remember to mention the JOURNAL; ordinarily no other means is available to enable advertisers to test the "pulling power" of the JOURNAL as an advertising medium. In the second place, they can